

# Union Calendar No. 516

112th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - House Report 112-706

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT OF THE  
ACTIVITIES  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
DURING THE  
ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS  
PURSUANT TO  
CLAUSE 1(d) RULE XI OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES



DECEMBER 19, 2012.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House  
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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WASHINGTON : 2012

## COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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MARK AMODEI, Nevada	
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HELEN W. TOLAR, *Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

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BILL FLORES, Texas	

#### COMMITTEE STAFF

HELEN W. TOLAR, *Staff Director and Chief Counsel*  
MALCOM A. SHORTER, *Democratic Staff Director*  
JONATHAN A. TOWERS, *Deputy Staff Director*  
TONY J. BUCKLES, *Democratic Chief of Staff*  
DAVID M. TUCKER, *Democratic Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel;*  
*Communications Director*  
CAROLYN BLAYDES, *Executive Assistant*  
MICHAEL F. BRINCK, *Staff Director, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity*  
JONATHAN A. CLARK, *Professional Staff Member, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity*  
BERNADINE N. DOTSON, *Financial Administrator*  
DOLORES A. DUNN, *Staff Director, Subcommittee on Health*  
JESSICA G. EGGIMANN, *Committee Clerk/Officer Manager*  
SCOTT L. FERGUSON, *Staff Assistant*  
ELBY A. GODWIN, *Professional Staff Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations*  
SAMANTHA E. GONZALEZ, *Professional Staff Member, Subcommittee on Health*  
ERIC E. HANNEL, *Staff Director, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations*  
JUAN LARA, *Democratic Staff Director and Counsel, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity*  
ROB MCQUADE, *Research Assistant*  
AMY K. MITCHELL, *Communications Director*  
CAROL S. MURRAY, *Democratic Legislative Coordinator*  
RORY RILEY, *Staff Director, Subcommittee Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs*  
KIMBERLY W. ROSS, *Democratic Staff Director and Counsel, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs*  
MICHAEL N. SIEGEL, *Press Assistant*  
CASEY STREET, *Professional Staff Member (Appointed to the Committee February 11, 2011–August 17, 2012)*  
ORFA A. TORRES, *Democratic Senior Legislative Assistant for the Subcommittees on Economic Opportunity and Oversight & Investigations*  
CATHLEEN C. WIBLEMO, *Democratic Staff Director, Subcommittee on Health*  
JIAN IZA C. ZAPATA, *Democratic Senior Legislative Assistant for the Subcommittees on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and Health*

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, December 19, 2012.*

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MS. HAAS: In accordance with clause 1(d) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I submit herewith the report of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs setting forth its activities in reviewing and studying the application, administration, and execution of those laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of our committee.

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER, *Chairman.*



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## Union Calendar No. 516

112TH CONGRESS } 2d Session	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	{ REPORT 112-706
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### FOURTH QUARTER REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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DECEMBER 19, 2012.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
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Mr. MILLER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to  
Clause 1(d) Rule XI, submitted the following

### R E P O R T

#### JURISDICTION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives establishes the standing committees of the House and their jurisdiction. Under that rule, all bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to the subjects within the jurisdiction of any standing committee shall be referred to such committee. Clause 1(s) of Rule X establishes the jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs as follows:

- (1) Veterans' measures generally.
- (2) Cemeteries of the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or may be buried, whether in the United States or abroad (except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior).
- (3) Compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and education of veterans.
- (4) Life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Forces.
- (5) Pensions of all the wars of the United States, general and special.
- (6) Readjustment of servicemembers to civil life.
- (7) Servicemembers' civil relief.
- (8) Veterans' hospitals, medical care, and treatment of veterans.

## RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

### RULE 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) **APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES.**—The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in Committees and subcommittees.

(b) **SUBCOMMITTEES.**—Each subcommittee of the Committee is a part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and to its rules so far as applicable.

(c) **INCORPORATION OF HOUSE RULE ON COMMITTEE PROCEDURE.**—Rule XI of the Rules of the House, which pertains entirely to Committee procedure, is incorporated and made part of the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable. Pursuant to clause 2(a)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chairman of the full Committee is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

(d) **VICE CHAIRMAN.**—Pursuant to clause 2(d) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chairman of the full Committee shall designate the Vice Chairman of the Committee.

### RULE 2—REGULAR AND ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

(a) **REGULAR MEETINGS.**—The regular meeting day for the Committee shall be at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in such place as the Chairman may designate. However, the Chairman may dispense with a regular Wednesday meeting of the Committee.

(b) **ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.**—The Chairman of the Committee may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to the call of the Chairman.

(c) **NOTICE.**—The Chairman shall notify each member of the Committee of the agenda of each regular and additional meeting of the Committee at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting, except under circumstances the Chairman determines to be of an emergency nature. Under such circumstances, the Chairman shall make an effort to consult the ranking minority member, or in such member's absence, the next ranking minority party member of the Committee.

### RULE 3—MEETINGS AND HEARINGS GENERALLY

(a) **OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS.**—Meetings and hearings of the Committee and each of its subcommittees shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(b) **ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARING.**—The Chairman, in the case of a hearing to be conducted by the Committee, and the subcommittee Chairman, in the case of a hearing to be conducted by a subcommittee, shall make public announcement of the date, place, and

subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing unless the Committee or the subcommittee determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing at an earlier date. In the latter event, the Chairman or the subcommittee Chairman, as the case may be, shall consult with the ranking minority member and make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Clerk of the Congressional Record and the Committee scheduling service of the House Information Resources as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(c) **WIRELESS TELEPHONE USE PROHIBITED.**—No person may use a wireless telephone during a Committee or subcommittee meeting or hearing.

(d) **MEDIA COVERAGE.**—Any meeting of the Committee or its subcommittees that is open to the public shall be open to coverage by radio, television, and still photography in accordance with the provisions of clause 4 of House rule XI.

(e) **REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTIMONY.**—

(1) Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a subcommittee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony. Each witness shall, to the greatest extent practicable, also provide a copy of such written testimony in an electronic format prescribed by the Chairman. Each witness shall limit any oral presentation to a summary of the written statement.

(2) Pursuant to clause 4 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, in the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

(f) **CALLING AND QUESTIONING WITNESSES.**—

(1) Committee and subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee for that purpose, and only for a 5-minute period until all members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The 5-minute period for questioning a witness by any one member may be extended only with the unanimous consent of all members present. The questioning of witnesses in both Committee and subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the Chairman, followed by the ranking minority party member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority. Except as otherwise announced by the Chairman at the beginning of a hearing, members who are present at the start of the hearing will be recognized before other members who arrive after the hearing has begun. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of the majority.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) regarding the 5-minute rule, the Chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member may designate an equal number of members of the Committee or subcommittee majority and minority party to question a witness for a period not longer than 30 minutes. In no event shall the Chairman allow a member to question a witness for an extended period under this rule until all members present have had the opportunity to ask questions under the 5-minute rule. The Chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member may permit Committee staff for its majority and minority party members to question a witness for equal specified periods of time.

(3) When a hearing is conducted by the Committee or a subcommittee on any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman of a majority of those minority members before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of the hearing thereon.

(g) SUBPOENAS.—Pursuant to clause 2(m) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, a subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee or a subcommittee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present.

(h) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—The text of all bills or resolutions for markup shall be made available to both majority and minority staff at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled markup, except as agreed to by unanimous consent. All primary amendments must be submitted to both majority and minority staff no less than 24 hours prior to a scheduled markup, except as agreed to by unanimous consent.

#### **RULE 4—QUORUM AND RECORD VOTES; POSTPONEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS**

(a) WORKING QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for business and a majority of the members of any subcommittee shall constitute a quorum thereof for business, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(b) QUORUM FOR REPORTING.—No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House of Representatives unless a majority of the Committee was actually present.

(c) RECORD VOTES.—A record vote may be demanded by one-fifth of the members present or, in the apparent absence of a quorum, by any one member. With respect to any record vote on any motion to amend or report, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the report of the Committee on the bill or resolution.

(d) PROHIBITION AGAINST PROXY VOTING.—No vote by any member of the Committee or a subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

(e) POSTPONING PROCEEDINGS.—Committee and subcommittee chairmen may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment, and may resume proceedings within two

legislative days on a postponed question after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

## **RULE 5—SUBCOMMITTEES**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT AND JURISDICTION.**—

(1) There shall be four subcommittees of the Committee as follows:

(A) Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, which shall have legislative, oversight and investigative jurisdiction over compensation; general and special pensions of all the wars of the United States; life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Forces; cemeteries of the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or may be buried, whether in the United States or abroad, except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior; burial benefits; the Board of Veterans' Appeals; and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

(B) Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, which shall have legislative, oversight and investigative jurisdiction over education of veterans, employment and training of veterans, vocational rehabilitation, veterans' housing programs, readjustment of servicemembers to civilian life, and servicemembers civil relief.

(C) Subcommittee on Health, which shall have legislative, oversight, and investigative jurisdiction over the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) including medical services, medical support and compliance, medical facilities, medical and prosthetic research, and major and minor construction.

(D) Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, which shall have oversight and investigative jurisdiction over veterans' matters generally, information technology, procurement, and over such matters as may be referred to the subcommittee by the Chairman of the full Committee for its oversight or investigation and for its appropriate recommendations. The subcommittee shall have legislative jurisdiction over such bills or resolutions as may be referred to it by the Chairman of the full Committee. Provided, however, that the activities of the Subcommittee shall in no way limit the responsibility of the other subcommittees of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for carrying out their oversight duties.

(2) Each subcommittee shall have responsibility for such other measures or matters as the Chairman refers to it.

(b) **VACANCIES.**—Any vacancy in the membership of a subcommittee shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the functions of that subcommittee.

(c) **RATIOS.**—On each subcommittee, there shall be a ratio of majority party members to minority party members which shall be consistent with the ratio on the full Committee.

(d) REFERRAL TO SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Chairman of the Committee may refer a measure or matter, which is within the general responsibility of more than one of the subcommittees of the Committee, as the Chairman deems appropriate. In referring any measure or matter to a subcommittee, the Chairman of the Committee may specify a date by which the subcommittee shall report thereon to the Committee.

(e) POWERS AND DUTIES.—

(1) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the full Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective subcommittees after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

(2) Whenever a subcommittee has ordered a bill, resolution, or other matter to be reported to the Committee, the Chairman of the subcommittee reporting the bill, resolution, or matter to the full Committee, or any member authorized by the subcommittee to do so shall notify the Chairman and the ranking minority party member of the Committee of the Subcommittee's action.

(3) A member of the Committee who is not a member of a particular subcommittee may sit with the subcommittee during any of its meetings and hearings, but shall not have authority to vote, cannot be counted for a quorum, and cannot raise a point of order at the meeting or hearing.

(4) Each subcommittee shall provide the Committee with copies of such record votes taken in subcommittee and such other records with respect to the subcommittee as the Chairman of the Committee deems necessary for the Committee to comply with all rules and regulations of the House.

## **RULE 6—GENERAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY**

(a) PURPOSE.—Pursuant to clause 2 of Rule X of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall carry out oversight responsibilities. In order to assist the House in—

(1) Its analysis, appraisal, evaluation of—

(A) The application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of the laws enacted by the Congress, or

(B) Conditions and circumstances, which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation, and

(2) Its formulation, consideration and enactment of such modifications or changes in those laws, and of such additional legislation, as may be necessary or appropriate, the Committee and its various subcommittees, consistent with their jurisdiction as set forth in Rule 5, shall have oversight responsibilities as provided in subsection (b).

(b) REVIEW OF LAWS AND PROGRAMS.—The Committee and its subcommittees shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the applications, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee, and the organization

and operation of the Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities in or for the administration and execution thereof, in order to determine whether such laws and the programs thereunder are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the Congress and whether such programs should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated. In addition, the Committee and its subcommittees shall review and study any conditions or circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee (whether or not any bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto), and shall on a continuing basis undertake future research and forecasting on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee.

(c) OVERSIGHT PLAN.—Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the Committee shall meet in open session, with a quorum present, to adopt its oversight plans for that Congress for submission to the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(d) of Rule X of the Rules of the House.

(d) OVERSIGHT BY SUBCOMMITTEES.—The existence and activities of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations shall in no way limit the responsibility of the other subcommittees of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for carrying out oversight duties.

#### **RULE 7—BUDGET ACT RESPONSIBILITIES**

(a) BUDGET ACT RESPONSIBILITIES.—Pursuant to clause 4(f)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall submit to the Committee on the Budget not later than six weeks after the President submits his budget, or at such time as the Committee on the Budget may request—

(1) Its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year that are within its jurisdiction or functions; and

(2) An estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting therefrom, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction that it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

#### **RULE 8—RECORDS AND OTHER MATTERS**

(a) TRANSCRIPTS.—There shall be a transcript made of each regular and additional meeting and hearing of the Committee and its subcommittees. Any such transcript shall be a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved.

(b) RECORDS.—

(1) The Committee shall keep a record of all actions of the Committee and each of its subcommittees. The record shall contain all information required by clause 2(e)(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House and shall be available for public inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee.

(2) There shall be kept in writing a record of the proceedings of the Committee and each of its subcommittees, including a record of the votes on any question on which a recorded vote is demanded. The result of each such record vote shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members present but not voting.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF ARCHIVED RECORDS.—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chairman shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3 or clause 4 of Rule VII of the Rules of the House, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS.—Pursuant to clause 2(e)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form to the maximum extent feasible.

## **RULE 9—TRAVEL**

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL.—All requests for travel, funded by the Committee, for Members and staff in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee, shall be submitted to the Chair for approval or disapproval. All travel requests should be submitted to the Chair at least five working days in advance of the proposed travel. For all travel funded by any other source, notice shall be given to the Chair at least five working days in advance of the proposed travel. All travel requests shall be submitted to the Chair in writing and include the following:

- (1) The purpose of the travel.
- (2) The dates during which the travel is to occur.
- (3) The names of the locations to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each.
- (4) The names of members and staff of the Committee for whom the authorization is sought. Travel by the minority shall be submitted to the Chair via the Ranking Member.

(b) TRIP REPORTS.—Members and staff shall make a written report to the Chair within 15 working days on all travel approved under this subsection. Reports shall include a description of their itinerary, expenses, and activities, and pertinent information gained as a result of such travel.

When travel involves majority and minority Members or staff, the majority shall submit the report to the Chair on behalf of the majority and minority. The minority may append additional remarks to the report at their discretion.

(c) APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES.—Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall



be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, and regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE FULL COMMITTEE

### LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### **Full Committee Markup of H.R. 4057, H.R. 5747 and H.R. 5948**

On July 11, 2012, the Committee met and marked up H.R. 4057, Improving Transparency of Education Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2012; H.R. 5747, Military Family Home Protection Act; and H.R. 5948, Veterans Fiduciary Reform and Honoring Noble Service Act.

On July 11, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 4057, as Amended by the EO Subcommittee was offered by Mr. Bilirakis of FL. An Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 4057 was offered by Mr. Walz of MN. The Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 4057 was adopted by the Full Committee by voice vote. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 4057, as amended was adopted by the Full Committee by voice vote. H.R. 4057, as amended passed the Full Committee by voice vote and was favorably reported to the Full House of Representatives by voice vote (See H. Report 112-646).

On September 11, 2012, H.R. 4057 was agreed to in the House on motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended. H.R. 4057, as amended was agreed to by the Full House by voice vote.

On July 11, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) was offered by Mr. Braley of IA, to H.R. 5747, as Amended by the Subcommittee on O&I. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 5747, as amended was adopted by the Full Committee by voice vote. H.R. 5747, as Amended passed the Full Committee by voice vote and was favorably reported to the House of Representatives also by voice vote.

On July 11, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 5948 was offered by Mr. Johnson of OH. An Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 5948 was offered by Mr. Bilirakis of FL. The Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 5948 was adopted by the Full Committee by voice vote. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 5948, As Amended was adopted by voice vote. H.R. 5948, as amended, passed the Full Committee by voice vote and was favorably reported to the Full House by voice vote (See H. Report 112-678).

On September 19, 2012, H.R. 5948 was agreed to in the House on motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended. H.R. 5948, as amended was agreed to by the Full House by voice vote.

## OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

**Full Committee Hearing—Reclaiming the Process: Examining the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Claims Transformation Plan as a Means to Effectively Serve Our Veterans**

On June 19, 2012, the Full Committee held an oversight hearing on Veterans Benefit Administration's transformation plan, which centers on the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS), a program that is supposed to digitize disability claims and make the process more timely and accurate.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by representatives from multiple Veterans Service Organizations.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by a representative from the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

On the third panel, testimony was provided by representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the fourth panel testimony was provided by the Honorable Allison Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs who was accompanied by additional representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See Full Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing on Reclaiming the Process: Examining the VBA Claims Transformation Plan as a Means to Effectively Serve our Veterans, Serial No. 112-66.

**Full Committee Hearing—Back From the Battlefield: DoD and VA Collaboration to Assist Servicemembers Returning to Civilian Life**

On July 25, 2012, the Full Committee participated in a joint hearing with the House Armed Services Committee to address serious concerns that the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs were not working fast enough toward a seamless transition for servicemembers leaving the military.

On the first and only panel, testimony was provided by the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense and the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs. See Joint Full Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services Hearing on Back From the Battlefield: DoD and VA Collaborations to Assist Servicemembers Returning to Civilian Life, Serial No. 112-71.

**Full Committee Hearing—The New Orlando VA Medical Center: Broken Ground, Broken Promises**

On August 13, 2012, the Full Committee held a field hearing at the University of Central Florida, College of Medical Health and Science in Orlando, FL to discuss continuing efforts to reach consensus on how best to move forward to complete the new facility, which would offer VA medical care to veterans of Central Florida.

On panel one, testimony was provided by Mr. Glenn D. Haggstrom, the Principal Executive Director, Office of Acquisitions, Logistics, and Construction at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs who was accompanied by additional representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On panel two, testimony was provided by representatives from Brasfield & Gorrie. See Full Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing on The New Orlando VA Medical Center: Broken Ground, Broken Promises, Serial No. 112–74.

**Full Committee Hearing—Veterans Affairs in the 112th Congress: Reviewing VA's Performance and Accountability**

On Sept. 20, 2012, the Full Committee held a hearing on vital programs including the perennially growing disability claims backlog, mental health care, and oversight and stewardship of VA funding over the past two years.

On the first and only panel, testimony was provided by the Honorable W. Scott Gould, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs who was accompanied by Todd Grams, Executive in Charge for the Office of Management and Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See Full Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing on Veterans Affairs in the 112th Congress: Reviewing VA's Performance and Accountability, Serial No. 112–76.

**Full Committee Hearing—Joint House and Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs to Receive Legislative Presentation of the American Legion**

On October 3, 2012, the Full Committee participated in a joint hearing with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to receive testimony from the American Legion on its 2013 legislative priorities.

The first and only panel consisted of representatives from the Veterans Service Organization, the American Legion. See Joint House and Senate Full Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing on Legislative Presentation of The American Legion, Serial No. 112–79.

**Full Committee Hearing—VA Conference Spending and Accountability**

On November 28, 2012, the Full Committee held an oversight hearing on VA's conference spending and to examine VA's response to Congress regarding its conference spending.

On the first and only panel testimony was provided by the Honorable W. Scott Gould, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs who was accompanied by Todd Grams, Executive in Charge for the Office of Management and Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and Ms. Phillipa Anderson, Assistant General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See Full Committee on Veterans' Affairs Hearing on VA Conference Spending and Accountability, Serial No. 112–81.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY  
ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

**Subcommittee Markup of ANS to H.R. 5735, H.R. 5880 and an  
ANS to H.R. 5881**

On July 27, 2012 the Committee met and marked up an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 5735, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Tomb of Remembrance at Arlington National Cemetery for interment of cremated fragments of the remains of members of the Armed Forces killed in Afghanistan, Iraq, or a subsequent conflict when the fragments are unidentifiable by use of DNA testing or other means because of the condition of the fragments, are unclaimed, or are identified and authorized by the person designated to direct disposition of the remains for interment in such memorial; H.R. 5880, Veterans Disability Examination Access Improvement Act; and an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 5881, Access to Veterans Benefits Improvement Act.

On July 27, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) was offered by Rep. Jon Runyan of NJ to H.R. 5735, which was adopted by the Subcommittee by voice vote and forwarded favorably to the Full Committee by voice vote.

On July 27, 2012, H.R. 5880 passed the Subcommittee by a voice vote and was forwarded favorably to the Full Committee by voice vote.

On July 27, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) was offered to H.R. 5881 by Rep. Runyan of New Jersey. The ANS to H.R. 5881 was adopted by the Subcommittee by voice vote.

H.R. 5881, as amended was forwarded favorably to the Full Committee by voice vote.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

**Subcommittee Hearing—Invisible Wounds: Examining the  
Disability Compensation Benefits Process for Victims of  
Military Sexual Trauma**

On July 18, 2012, the Subcommittee held a hearing focused on urging the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide consistent review of military sexual assault claims and appropriate care for those who have endured military sexual assault.

On the first panel, testimony was received by representatives from two Veterans Service Organizations and the Service Women's Action Network.

On the second panel, testimony was received by representatives from Give an Hour and the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center.

On the third panel, testimony was received by a constituent witness.

On the fourth and final panel testimony was received by representatives from the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See Invisible Wounds: Examining the Disability Compensation Benefits Process for Victims of Military Sexual Trauma, Serial No. 112–70.

**Subcommittee Hearing—Breaking Through the Backlog:  
Evaluating the Effectiveness of the New State Strike  
Force Team**

On September 22, 2012, the Subcommittee held a hearing to review alternate models in order to assist VA in alleviating the continuing problem of claims backlog.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by representatives from the Texas Veterans Commission.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See *Breaking Through the Backlog: Evaluating the Effectiveness of the New State Strike Force Team*, Serial No. 112–78.

**Subcommittee Hearing—Wading Through Warehouses of  
Paper: The Challenges of Transitioning Veterans Records  
to Paperless Technology**

On December 4, 2012, the Subcommittee held a hearing to review the implementation of technology to address the backlog of benefits claims.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Richard Dumancas, Deputy Director for Claims, The American Legion; Mr. Michael Viterna, Esq., President, National Association of Veterans Advocates; and Mr. Jeffrey Hall, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Jim Neighbors, Director of DoD/VA Collaboration Office, U.S. Department of Defense; Mr. Scott Levins, Director of the National Personnel Records Center, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration; and Mr. Alan Bozeman, Director, Veterans Benefits Management System, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See *Wading Through Warehouses of Paper: The Challenges of Transitioning Veterans Records to Paperless Technology*, Serial No. 112–82.

**Subcommittee Facility Visit—Indianapolis Regional Office**

On August 24, 2012, Professional Staff Member visited the Indianapolis, Indiana Regional Office to evaluate the new transformation model, including the use of fully developed claims and segmented processing lanes.

**Subcommittee Facility Visit—St. Louis, Missouri, Regional  
Office**

October 24–26, 2012, Professional Staff Member visited the St. Louis, Missouri Regional Office to observe a new pilot at the National Call Center, and the National Personnel Records Center to follow up on an on-going investigation about misfiled veterans' records.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

### LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### **Subcommittee Markup of H.R. 4115, H.R. 3524, H.R. 4057, H.R. 4740, H.R. 5747**

On June 28, 2012, the Subcommittee met and marked up H.R. 4115, Helping Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Return to Employment at Home Act; H.R. 3524, Disabled Veterans Employment Protection Act, H.R. 4057, Improving Transparency of Education Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2012; H.R. 4740, Fairness for Military Homeowners Act of 2012; H.R. 3860, to require the Transportation Security Administration to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act; and Military Family Home Protection Act.

On June 28, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 4057, Improving Transparency of Education Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2012 was offered by Rep. Braley of IA and adopted by the EO Subcommittee by voice vote. H.R. 4057, As Amended was favorably forwarded to the Full Committee by voice vote.

On June 28, 2012, H.R. 4115, Helping Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Return to Employment at Home Act, passed the EO Subcommittee by voice vote. H.R. 4115 was favorably forwarded to the Full Committee by voice vote.

On June 28, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 4740, Fairness for Military Homeowners Act of 2012 was offered by Rep. Stutzman of IN and adopted by the EO Subcommittee by voice vote. H.R. 4740, As Amended was favorably forwarded to the Full Committee by voice vote.

On June 28, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 3524, Disabled Veterans Employment Protection Act was offered by Rep. Braley of IA and adopted by the EO Subcommittee by voice vote. H.R. 3524, As Amended was favorably forwarded to the Full Committee by voice vote.

On June 28, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 5747, Military Family Home Protection Act was offered by Rep. Braley of IA and adopted by the EO Subcommittee by voice vote. H.R. 5747, As Amended was favorably forwarded to the Full Committee by voice vote.

### OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

#### **Subcommittee Hearing—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4115, H.R. 4740, H.R. 3860, H.R. 5747**

On June 21, 2012 the Subcommittee held a legislative hearing on H.R. 4115, Helping Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Return to Employment at Home Act; H.R. 4740, Fairness for Military Homeowners Act of 2012; H.R. 3860, to require the Transportation Security Administration to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act; H.R. 5747, Military Family Home Protection Act.

Members of Congress sponsoring the legislation as well as representation from VA, DOL, and multiple VSOs testified before the

subcommittee. See Economic Opportunity Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4115, H.R. 4740, H.R. 3860, H.R. 5747, Serial No. 112–69.

**Joint Subcommittee Hearing With the Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations—Odyssey of the CVE (Center for Veterans Enterprise)**

On August 2, 2012, the Subcommittees held an oversight hearing on the Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE) which has under scrutiny from the Committee about the way it conducts its verification and re-verification of veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs).

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Thomas J. Leney, the Executive Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Richard J. Hillman, the Managing Director at Forensic Audits and Investigative Service at the U.S. Government Accountability Office and Mr. James J. O'Neill, the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations in the Office of the Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the third panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Richard F. Weidman, Executive Director, Policy & Government Affairs, Vietnam Veterans of America and Mr. Scott Denniston, Executive Director, National Veteran Small Business Coalition. See Joint Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and Oversight and Investigations Hearing on Odyssey of the CVE, Serial No. 112–73.

**Subcommittee Hearing—Examining the Re-Design of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)**

On September 20, 2012, the Subcommittee held a hearing to outline the ways in which it believes TAP can be most successful in giving veterans the training they need to return to civilian life.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Defense.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by representatives from the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Coast Guard. See Examining the Re-Design of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), Serial No. 112–77.

**Subcommittee Hearing—Review of Veterans Employment Challenges and Initiatives of the 112th Congress**

On November 15, 2012, the Subcommittee held a hearing to focus on finding opportunities, and reviewing existing programs, to help unemployed veterans find meaningful employment. The hearing examined how the federal government can better connect resources for unemployed veterans at the state level, reaching veterans in communities across the nation.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by representatives from the Texas Veterans Commission and the National Association

of State Workforce Agencies and Executive Director of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. See Review of Veterans Employment Challenges and Initiatives of the 112th Congress. Serial No. 112–80.

#### **Subcommittee Facility Visit—Randolph Air Force Base**

On August 13–17, 2012, Subcommittee Staff Director and Professional Staff Member visited Randolph Air Force Base outside of San Antonio, Texas to view the effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program.

#### **Subcommittee Facility Visit—Marine Corps Air Station**

On August 27–31, 2012, Professional Staff Members visited the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, California to view the effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program.

### **ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

#### **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**

#### **Subcommittee Markup of H.R. 3337 and ANS to H.R. 4079**

On June 29, 2012, the Subcommittee met and marked up H.R. 3337, the Open Burn Pit Registry Act of 2011; and an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 4079, the Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act.

On June 29, 2012, an Amendment to H.R. 3337, the Open Burn Pit Registry Act of 2011, was offered by Rep. Stearns of FL. The Amendment to H.R. 3337 was adopted by the Subcommittee on Health by voice vote. H.R. 3337, as amended, was forwarded favorably to the Full Committee by voice vote.

On June 29, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) was offered to H.R. 4079, the Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act, by Rep. Beurkle of NY. The ANS to H.R. 4079 was adopted by the Subcommittee on Health by voice vote. H.R. 4079, as amended, was forwarded favorably to the Full Committee by voice vote.

#### **OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES**

#### **Subcommittee Hearing—Optimizing Care for Veterans with Prosthetics: An Update**

On July 31, 2012, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) prosthetic procurement reforms. On May 16, 2012, the Subcommittee held a hearing that exposed potential negative impacts on patient care that may result from upcoming reforms to VA's prosthetic procurement policies. Chairwoman Buerkle and Ranking Member Michaud sent a letter on June 18, 2012, requesting that the Secretary respond to specific questions regarding the concerns raised at the hearing. At this hearing, the Subcommittee examined the Department's incomplete response to the letter, the actions that VA had taken since the May hearing, and the potential impact of such actions on veterans with amputations.



On the first and only panel, testimony was provided by The Honorable Dr. Robert A. Petzel, M.D., the Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Under Secretary was accompanied by representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See *Optimizing Care for Veterans with Prosthetics*, Serial No. 112–61.

### **Subcommittee Hearing—VA Fee Basis Care: Examining Solutions to a Flawed System**

On September 14, 2012, the Subcommittee held an oversight hearing to address significant challenges the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) faces with the current structure of the fee basis program regarding quality, cost, and care coordination. The inadequate accountability and fiscal controls are well-documented by the VA Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office. The Subcommittee focused on the need to improve the fee program and ways to redesign the system to ensure veterans receive quality, coordinated care in a cost effective manner. Of particular concern to the Subcommittee were two new VA-driven initiatives, the Patient-Centered Community Care (PCCC) and Non-VA Care Coordination (NVCC) programs, and the strategy and criteria VA used to develop, design, and implement them.

On the first panel, testimony was provided by representatives from several Veterans Service Organizations.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by representatives from Humana Veterans Healthcare Services, Inc., Cary Medical Center, and the National Academy of Public Administration.

On the third panel, testimony was provided by The Honorable Dr. Robert A. Petzel, M.D., the Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Under Secretary was accompanied by representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See *VA Fee Basis Care: Examining Solutions to a Flawed System*, Serial No. 112–75.

### **Site Visit—Boston, Massachusetts**

September 7–9, 2012—Subcommittee Staff Director traveled to Boston, Massachusetts, to participate in the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association Veterans Meeting to hear from clinicians providing prosthetic and orthotic care to veterans throughout the country through contracts with VA about troubling concerns and the impact new VA policies and procurement reforms could have on prosthetic care.

### **Site Visit—West Palm Beach, Florida**

September 24–25, 2012—Committee Chairman and Subcommittee Staff Director traveled to West Palm Beach, Florida, for an oversight visit to evaluate the clinical operations of the West Palm Beach VAMC.

### **Site Visit—Martinsburg, West Virginia**

October 31, 2012—Subcommittee staff traveled to Martinsburg, West Virginia, for an oversight visit to evaluate the clinical oper-

ations of the Martinsburg VAMC and the activities of VA's Capital Region Readiness Center.

### **Site Visit—Minneapolis, Minnesota**

November 8, 2012—Subcommittee Staff Director traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota, for an oversight visit to evaluate the Minneapolis VA Health Care System's implementation of eight recommendations made by the VA Inspector General as a result of an investigation into a veteran suicide while under VA care.

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS**

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**

#### **Subcommittee Markup of H.R. 3730, H.R. 4481, H.R. 5948**

On June 27, 2012, the Subcommittee met and marked up H.R. 3730, the Veterans Data Breach Timely Notification Act; H.R. 4481, the Veterans Affairs Employee Accountability Act; and H.R. 5948, the Veterans Fiduciary Reform Act of 2012.

On June 27, 2012, an Amendment was offered to H.R. 3730, the Veterans Data Breach Timely Notification Act. The Amendment to H.R. 3730 was adopted by the O&I Subcommittee by voice vote. H.R. 3730, as amended, was forwarded favorably to the Full Committee by voice vote.

On June 27, 2012, an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) was offered to H.R. 4481, the Veterans Affairs Employee Accountability Act. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 4481 was adopted by the subcommittee by voice vote. H.R. 4481, as amended, was forwarded favorably to the Full Committee by voice vote.

On June 27, 2012, An Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 5948, the Veterans Fiduciary Reform Act of 2012, was offered by Rep. Johnson of OH. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 5948 was adopted by the Subcommittee by voice vote. H.R. 5948, as amended, was forwarded favorably to the Full Committee by voice vote.

### **OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES**

#### **Joint Subcommittee Hearing with the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity—Odyssey of the CVE (Center for Veterans Enterprise)**

On August 2, 2012, the Subcommittees held an oversight hearing on the Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE), which has been under review from the Committee about how it conducts its verification and re-verification of veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs).

On the first panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Thomas J. Leney, Executive Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the second panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Richard J. Hillman, Managing Director at Forensic Audits and Investigative Service at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and Mr.

James J. O'Neill, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations in the Office of the Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the third panel, testimony was provided by Mr. Richard F. Weidman, Executive Director, Policy & Government Affairs, Vietnam Veterans of America and Mr. Scott Denniston, Executive Director, National Veteran Small Business Coalition. See Joint Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and Economic Opportunity Hearing on Odyssey of the CVE, Serial No. 112–73.

**Subcommittee Hearing—Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2985, H.R. 3730, H.R. 4481, H.R. 5948**

On June 20, 2012, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 2985, the Veteran's I.D. Card Act; H.R. 3730, the Veterans Data Breach Timely Notification Act; H.R. 4481, the Veterans Affairs Employee Accountability Act; and H.R. 5948 the Veterans Fiduciary Reform Act of 2012.

Representatives from VA as well as several VSOs testified before the subcommittee. See Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2985, H.R. 3730, H.R. 4481, H.R. 5948, Serial No. 112–68.

**Site Visit—Frederick, Maryland**

July 26, 2012—Professional Staff Member made an oversight visit to the VA Acquisition Academy in Frederick, Maryland.

**Site Visit—Tampa, Florida**

August 30–31, 2012—Subcommittee Staff Director made an oversight visit to the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH COMMUNICATIONS**

June 19, 2012: Communication 06514, a letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting second quarterly report of HY 2012 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Received on May 14, 2012.

June 22, 2012: Communication 06578, a letter from the Adjutant General, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., proceedings of the 112th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held in San Antonio, Texas, August 28–September 1, 2011, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 118 and 44 U.S.C. 1332.

June 25, 2012: Communication 06611, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Departments final rule—Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Projection Program—Genitourinary Losses (RIN: 2900–A020) received May 31, 2012, Pursuant to 5 U.S.C 801(a)(1)(A).

July 13, 2012: Communication 06926, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Autopsies at VA Expense (RIN: 2900–AO03) received June 27, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

July 13, 2012: Communication 06925, a letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the 2011 annual report on the Department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2009(b).

July 13, 2012: Communication 06927, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—VA Veteran-Owned Small Business Verification Guidelines (RIN: 2900–AO40) received June 26, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

July 24, 2012: Communication 07060, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Benefits for Survivors of Former Prisoners of War Rated Totally Disabled at Time of Death (RIN: 2900–AO22) received July 9, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

July 24, 2012: Communication 07059, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Payable to a Surviving Spouse with One or More children Under Age 18 (RIN: 2900–AO38) received July 9, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

July 24, 2012: Communication 07065, a report from the Acting Under Secretary and Deputy Secretary, Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, transmitting Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Council Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 8111(f).

August 7, 2012: Memorial 0275, a memorial of the following title was presented by the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 64 urging the Congress to adopt the Veterans Remembered Flag.

August 7, 2012: Communication 07414, a letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter notifying that the Department intends to take in *Cardona v. Shinseki*, Vet. App. No. 11–3083.

September 11, 2012: Communication 07580, a letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting third quarterly report of FY2012 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

September 20, 2012: Memorial 0285, a memorial of the following title was presented by the Speaker: A memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 6 requesting that the Congress and the President enact the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011.

September 21, 2012: Communication 08011, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management; Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Sharing Information Between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense (RIN: 2900–AN95) received September 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

September 21, 2012: Communication 08012, a letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management; Office of the General

Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Guide and Service Dogs (RIN: 2900–AN51) received September 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

October 9, 2012: Communication 08066, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Exempting In-Home Video Telehealth From Copayments (RIN: 2900–AO26) received September 21, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

October 23, 2012: Communication 08145, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fisher House and Other Temporary Lodging (RIN: 2900–AN79) received October 1, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

October 23, 2012: Communication 08144, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Removal of 30-Day Residency Requirement for Per Diem Payments During an In-Patient Hospital Stay (RIN: 2900–AO36/WP2011–037) received October 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

October 23, 2012: Communication 08143, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance-Slayer's Rule Exclusion (RIN: 2900–AN40) received October 7, 2012, pursuant to U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

November 6, 2012: Communication 08238, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Extension of Statutory Period for Compensation for Certain Disabilities Due to Undiagnosed Illnesses and Medically Unexplained Chronic Multi-Symptom Illnesses (RIN: 2900–AO09) received October 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

November 16, 2012: Communication 08425, a letter from the Deputy Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), No-Health Period Extension (RIN: 2900–AO24) received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

November 27, 2012: Communication 08463, notification from the Public Affairs Specialist, the Disable American Veterans, transmitting the 2012 National Convention Proceedings of the Disable American Veterans, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 90i and 44 U.S.C. 1332.

November 30, 2012: Communication 08532, a letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the fourth quarterly report of FY 2012 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Referred jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

December 3, 2012: Communication 08565, a letter from the Overall Supervising Commander, Walter Cushing Veterans of World War II, Inc., transmitting a letter from the Walter Cushing Guerrillas Units.

December 7, 2012: Communication 08658, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance—Stillborn Child Coverage (RIN: 2900-AO30) received November 27, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

December 7, 2012: Communication 08659, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Authorization for Non-VA Medical Services (RIN: 2900-AO47) received November 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

December 7, 2012: Communication 08660, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rules Governing Hearings Before the Agency of Original Jurisdiction and the Board of Veterans' Appeals; Repeal of Prior Rule Change (RIN: 2900-AO43) received November 27, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

December 7, 2012: Communication 08661, a letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—VA Acquisition Regulation: Electronic Submission of Payment Requests (RIN: 2900-AN97) received November 27, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

